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Letter 1967, August 25, James Tate to Gene DeGruson

James Tate

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25 August [1967]
Kansas City

Dear Gene -

Again your letter has had to chase me around the country. I arrived here two days ago - in a rush to make my mother's wedding, which is tomorrow. I spent a few days in N.Y.C. with Howard and Betty Brown; then a night in Cleveland, and two in Iowa City.

The bomb and the 40 yr old widower hopefully will not have deepened your depression. Please don't let Reed and/or the thought of facing Iowa again eat too bitterly of your spirit. I can no longer get that personally involved in the sicknesses of hateful men like Reed. You must protect yourself; and the best way to do that is to realize your own value as a teacher, poet and human being. HE is not worthy of your anger, though I'm glad at least that you can tell me about it in your letters.

I did leave a tentative manuscript with Harper & Row in N.Y. It may come to nothing, but I wanted to know what they thought of it.

The Stonewall Press books should be finished around the end of October, maybe sooner.

Now I am fatigued with the thought of the coming academic year, and very frustrated with decisions which must be made soon in my own personal life - I must say I am so tired of expending half my time and energy just keeping that tolerably stable, which almost never is. I would like to say that I am finished with intense involvements for a few years, but I know myself better. If I survive these (3) I shall hopefully be the wiser, but perhaps only more and yet more seasoned - thyme, sage, Rosemary?

I don't know.

I am reading constantly now - no direction, of course: a new book on Randall Jarrell, with essays by 20 or 30 people; The Poetics of Space, by Gaston Bachelard; Basil Bunting; The Strangers Are False, by Louis MacNeice; Montale; Borges; David Jones; Paul Eluard; Lowell, Stevens, P.H. Lawrence ---

I definitely intend to visit Pittsburg before, or on my way West. Write soon, if only a note, to let me know if you will be there -

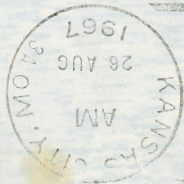
Yours
Jim

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Air Mail